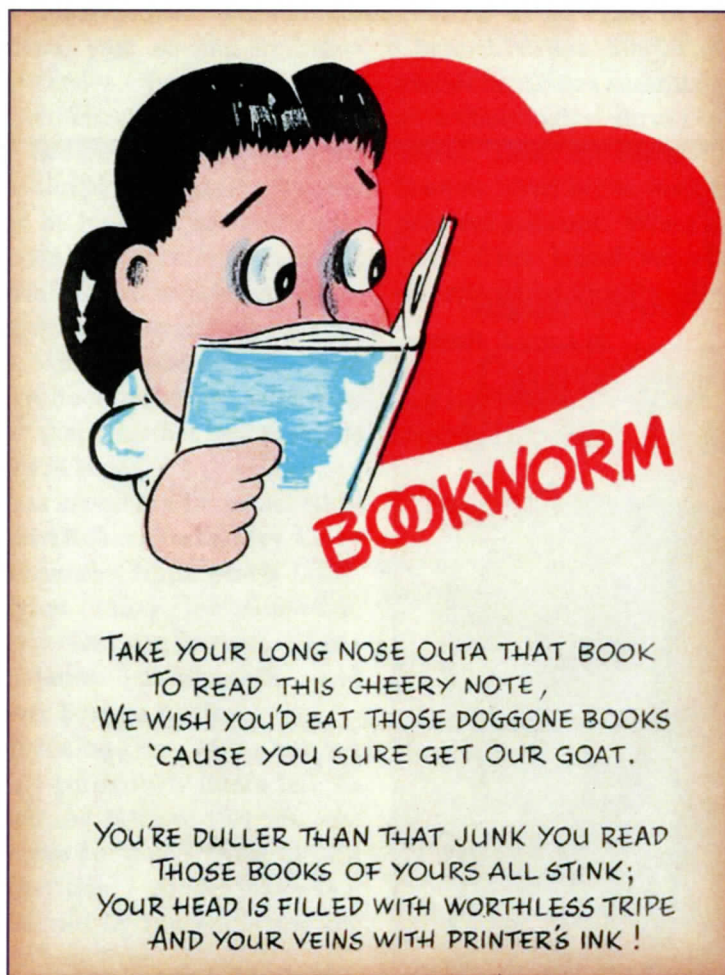




Hoja Volante

Published Quarterly by The Zamorano Club

Los Angeles, California



It is not the custom for Hoja Volante to recognize Valentine's Day, however, this is the February issue. The sentiment of the card, while certainly not one that members embrace, does give us pause, for is this what others think?

THIRTY-YEAR THOUGHTS:

AN EDITOR'S REMINISCENCE

Zamorano's class of 1990/91 brought a diverse group of women and men into the Club's "band" of book collectors. Much of my interaction with my Zamoranista classmates at first focused on "getting to know you." We were all new members, sort of like freshman entering university. Often I sat with one or another of them at dinner, listening to their lively stories and adventures. We kept ears attuned to engaging stories, artfully told by longtime members who were legendary collectors, authors, scholars, printers, and book sellers. Some of my "classmates" also shared with me their views, interests, and feelings about the world of book collecting, helping to inform and shape further my thoughts and interests in books.

The class members in alphabetical order included **Robert Bothamley, Larry Burgess, Kenneth Chinn, Marla Daily, John Dreyfus, Mary Joe Goodwin, Doris Harris, Jennifer Larson, Gloria Lothrop, James Schibanoff, and Josephine ver Brugge Zeitlin.**

I will focus on three of the women with whom I particularly interacted. As we celebrate and observe this year the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution, I wonder how much our Club missed by not endorsing the "amendment" until the 1980s.

Marla Daily travelled to meetings from Santa Barbara. Her interests, while diverse, held Santa Cruz Island

as a special place and cause for natural and cultural preservation. A cultural anthropology major at UC Santa Barbara, she became president of the Santa Cruz Island Foundation and extended her interests to all eight of the California Channel Islands. Marla's work with the islands began as a summer participant in an archaeological survey of Santa Cruz Island. Later, the island's owner, Carey Stanton, hired her to work for him as his personal assistant. When he formed the Santa Cruz Island Foundation, Marla was appointed Vice President.

CALIFORNIA'S CHANNEL ISLANDS

1001 QUESTIONS ANSWERED



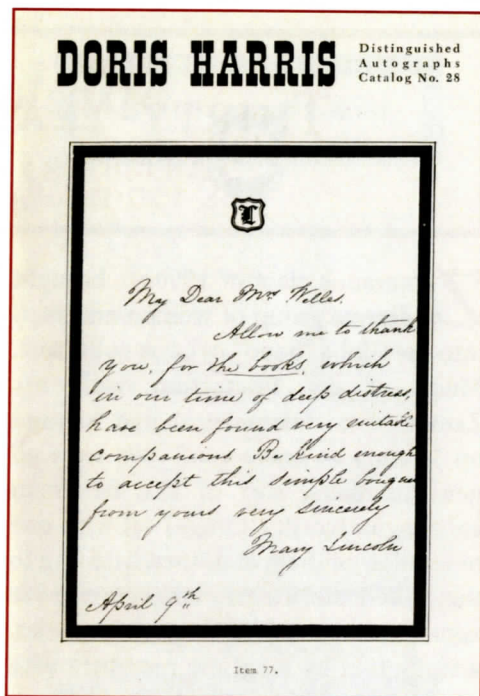
MARLA DAILY



Ultimately, Marla authored many books, some with collaborators. Her *California's Channel Islands: 1001 Questions Answered* was released in three editions. Her collection includes many wonderful volumes on the islands as well as Santa Barbara County. Her enthusiasm and love of research and preservation advocacy made it a delightful occasion to hear her talk about books and how they made a difference in her philanthropy. She also talked about her collections on flora, fauna, and human history in the greater Santa Barbara area. She skillfully "worked" the table at Club dinners whenever her ear caught conversations that might lead to new information and new volumes. She is active in preservation circles and cultural organizations in Santa Barbara and has an animated interest in books and people's passion about them. She provided me helpful insights about descendants of the Nordhoff family, whose collections of papers later came to Smiley Library, where I worked.

For years I purchased books and manuscripts from Doris Harris. She entered the field of manuscript collection by accident in 1954 when she looked at items in the window of a Manhattan bookshop, seeing a letter mentioning President William Henry Harrison. She bought the letter and a dozen others for \$1.50, took them home, and showed them to her then-husband Charles Hamilton. With those letters they launched Charles Hamilton Autograph Galleries, one of the first such businesses in New York City.

Following her divorce from Hamilton, Doris moved to San Pedro and established an autograph business there,



with later at locations on Hollywood and Wilshire boulevards. When she retired in 1999, I remember her telling me at Club that autopens and emails had strikingly altered the future of such collections and she wanted to quit "while ahead."

Her catalogues were instructive vignettes in history, her prices spot on, and her outreach about potential acquisitions to enrich our research collections at the Smiley, or for my own subject collections, never failed to disappoint. Indeed, they only increased my ardor for future acquisitions. Over the years, we shared conversations at meetings, at exhibits, and at programs, especially those of the Historical Society of Southern California. I always came away impressed by her depth of knowledge about books and manuscripts.

Our friendship grew with our shared relationship with **Ellwood "Dutch" Holland** and his wife Marion Vaché



Holland. Dutch later sponsored me for membership in Zamorano. At meetings, when I could, I sat with Doris, but she was always in demand, so I staked my seat early. She remains in my memory as one of the most decent, helpful, and intuitive classmates. Her death in 2005 left a void in my heart, both at Club and in my professional work.

A final thought is of her photographic memory. Her gentle voice and deep interest in good conversation about collectors, sellers, and institutions led her to gently correct many a spoken pronouncement when it was incorrect. Tellingly, when she found herself on the other end, she thanked the speaker and you could see the computer of her mind add that nugget of collection history.

I close with reflections about Gloria Ricci Lothrop. I met her in the 1970s. We attended various events hosted by the Historical Society of Southern California, in which we were active, as well as meetings of the Southern California Local History Council. A professor of history at Cal Poly Pomona, where she became the first woman to join the history department, Gloria had a pioneering spirit both in her historical subjects and in her academic career. She co-authored one of the first books to survey the contributions of women to the westward movement. She utilized unknown historical sources about women and often used cultural artifacts to bolster her analysis.

A descendant of Italian heritage, she wrote extensively on Italian-Americans in the West and in Los Angeles. She took particular pleasure as a leader in the historic preservation of Italian Hall on Olvera Street.

During her time as Whitsett Professor of California History at Cal State Northridge, Gloria and I would discuss mutual interests in a variety of research topics related to California and the West. Her books brought illumination to the Italian pioneer heritage of Los Angeles, as well as to the topics of California Women, Pomona's centennial history, and a book about *Recollections of the Flathead Mission*. She and **Doyce Nunis**, our Club's longtime secretary, edited a book, *A Guide to the History of California*. As a contributor to one of the essays, in retrospect I recall that experience with pleasure because collaborative efforts among academics are not always happy affairs. Doyce was her PhD advisor at USC and they became lifelong friends. She always remained in a bit of thrall with her mentor. With Gloria's death in 2015, the world of local and regional history lost a valued colleague, and Zamorano a companionable and knowledgeable member.

Fulfilling the Promise of California

AN ANTHOLOGY OF ESSAYS ON THE
ITALIAN AMERICAN EXPERIENCE
IN CALIFORNIA



edited by
Gloria Ricci Lothrop